



ELECTRONIC PRIVACY INFORMATION CENTER

CCTV: Privacy Best Practices

Melissa Ngo

Senior Counsel and

Director of the Identification & Surveillance Project

Department of Homeland Security

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CCTV Privacy Best Practices

- Involve the public and civil society in process from the beginning
- Clarify purpose(s) of the CCTV system
- Set clear, objective standards to evaluate effectiveness of CCTV system
- Employ data minimization

CCTV Privacy Best Practices Cont.

- Establish strong legal safeguards
 - Stringent reporting requirements
 - Methods for public complaint
 - Private right of action
 - Penalties for violations
- Do not squeeze definition of “privacy” into ineffectiveness
- Vigilantly guard against “mission creep”

Squeezing “Privacy”

- What is the right of privacy in public space?
- “Private” space shrinks with changing definitions
- Technology makes maintaining one’s privacy more difficult

Guarding Against Mission Creep

- Mission creep tied to squeezing definition of privacy
- Technology is converging
 - New York’s “Ring of Steel”
 - Face recognition systems in schools
 - “Talking” cameras
 - Chicago: Camera-equipped street sweepers?

What Is True Cost of CCTV?

- Money
 - £5 billion spent in UK from 1995 to 2005
 - \$230 million DHS grants through Dec. 2006
 - Millions more spent by cities and states
- Civil Liberties
 - Free speech
 - Culture accepting of “constant surveillance”
- Safety
 - People less vigilant because they wrongly believe they’re safe

Obligatory Plug

- Chapter entitled:
You Are Being Watched But Not
Protected: The Myth of Security Under
Camera Surveillance
- “Intersection: Sidewalks & Public Space”
- March 2008 from Chain Books

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www.epic.org

Melissa Ngo
[ngo @ epic.org](mailto:ngo@epic.org)